

**From Our Readers**

**NOTICE**

**EDITORS NOTE:** The Las Vegas Voice will publish your opinion on any subject - praise - complaints - questions - or answers. We do reserve the right to edit, and your letter must be signed with a valid address and phone number for verification prior to publication. We want your letters! At your written request your name can be withheld.

**An Open Letter to the Community:**

We have been told and everybody should be aware of the establishment of "The Westside Development Commission." Since this commission's inception, nothing has been developed -- people are still playing games, namely Mayor Bill Baire and the Rev. Marion Bennett.

Earlier this year, a proposal was submitted and accepted, upon investigation, in the amount of \$96,000.00 for the purpose of setting up an office with a small staff for community development, inclusive of a new face lift of the community -- High risk loans -- enabling residents to bring their homes up to standards, code, etc. (we all know that along with community development should come economic development.)

All was assumed to be well, until the acting chairman, Rev. Bennett, met secretly with Bruce Sprawling, regarding his proposal, which included the same entities mentioned above -- for the same purpose but only with less money -- \$28,000.00. The difference was the proposal earlier was authorized and submitted by the black community and the later proposal was submitted, but taken out of the writings of the first proposal, by a white man. And, of course, the amount of money.

Now -- it seems as if when the money comes, which is expected in December -- this black community will be again at the disposal of white supremacy -- why? Because we have chosen leaders that made secret deals and have secret meetings to align their personal pockets for their own benefit rather than complete representation of the entire black community.

The Board of Directors were not notified, have not, as of yet, seen the later proposal, and have absolutely no idea of how the \$28,000.00 will be spent. And I, for one -- being on the Board of Directors would like to have a voice and be notified when policy decisions are being made. For after all, I am a Board member and would like to have been able to voice my opinion as to relative needs for the black community.

I have been left out -- and because it was not officially approved by the Board of Directors -- I submit that the later proposal is invalid for implementation.

I would also like for the acting chairman, Rev. Bennett, to please respond via an open Board meeting as that we may act on these kinds of proposals in an official manner. Hoping that he will respond soon, for if he does not respond, then this whole community will know that he is indeed making deals behind closed doors with the white man to continually control the destiny of the black community.

Rev. Bennett, please don't be an oreo cookie for the rest of your life.

A Disgusted Board Member of the Westside Development Commission

I have the greatest respect for Eleanor Walker who is our present president of the Las Vegas NAACP. She has put forth an aggressive and concerted effort to help Blacks in every area. But somehow she has not received the expected support of individuals and groups. I hope if elected to gain this support.

In the last year I have only seen one or two preachers, only one doctor and no attorneys and very few teachers. But they are not the only missing people. Our everyday worker and ordinary citizens have not attended the meetings in force. This apathy is regrettable.

Our very well being is at stake when we fail to join and support the NAACP. The loss of Aaron Williams means we have lost 25% of our political clout so the need for the NAACP and

other civic groups becomes greater. We need to organize a strong membership campaign and the churches should take a front position in such a drive. This drive could and would rally a heavy support for the NAACP which would produce a strong method of negotiation and could resolve many of our problems. It is time to stop blaming our elected representatives and band together for the common good. For it takes all of us.

Let's get together.

It is time to elect a new president for the NAACP in Las Vegas. A strong progressive leadership is needed to improve the condition of the Black citizens of Las Vegas. I can provide that leadership with your help and co-operation. But good wishes won't do it -- you must have a paid up membership in October in order to vote at the December 12th meeting.

There are great needs in the area of employment, health and housing affecting our senior citizens, youth and family workers.

Sincere co-operation is needed with all Black oriented groups to accomplish economic development.

Join the NAACP now or pay up your membership dues at the NAACP office or send your check for \$6.00 for one or \$10 for a couple to NAACP - 1040 W. Owens, Las Vegas. Then come to the E.O.B. office, 900 W. Owens on Sunday December 12th and vote "Tom Hughes for President."

Call me at 648-0977 for further information.

Thomas F. Hughes

(Editor's note: See Resume under JUST THE FACT - page 2 - this issue.)

To the Editor:

I am puzzled by the "Black Vote." I've always believed we should vote for the candidate who can best serve the community by being elected to that office.

Once again we have the opportunity to exercise our right to vote, and this vote should be used to retain the only Black member of Clark County School Board of Trustees, James A. Gay. Let's make our vote count by keeping him (Jimmy) where he can do the most good for our children.

I personally feel that dividing our vote at this time can only cost us our chance to be truly represented on this board.

We lost Aaron Williams on the County Commission. We don't want to loose "Jimmy" by using our vote un-wisely. Let's stick together for once in our lives and show strength.

An elected official who has only one vote must win support of most of the other members of the board in order to get his bills or concerns passed. He cannot eliminate himself from the other members and still expect them to support him, and vote favorably for the things he wants.

Mr. Gay is already on the School Board. He has been working diligently, and unceasingly for the benefit of the community. I feel we would be doing him a great injustice if we do not support him. Let's let him know we appreciate what he is trying to do by supporting him.

E.P.  
Las Vegas, Nev.

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**Ford Appoint Black to Board**

President Ford has appointed Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., president of Michigan State University, to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development.

The distinguished Black educator was one of six persons named to the Board. These are new positions established by Public Law 94-161 of December 20, 1975.

The general area the Board will be involved in is Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger.

Wharton, of East Lansing, Michigan, was appointed to a term of three years.

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